



SOCCE ACTION

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By
CRAIG
MAC KENZIE

As we went to press, Melbourne Croatia was cutting a swathe through red tape in an 11th hour bid to bring star import Ian Wallace to Melbourne in time for Saturday's Buffalo Gold Cup Final against South Melbourne Hellas.

The former Scottish international already has received his international clearance and Croatia officials have just about fixed up all his immigration Department requirements.

Croatia also announced this week that it had clinched the signature of 23-year-old midfielder Branko Milosevic from Osijek and he should arrive in about three weeks' time, along with Croatia's other star Scottish import, Willie Herd from Patrick Thistle.

If Croatia coach Terry Hennessy is right about Paul Lewis's goalscor-

The Buffalo Cup Final kicks off at 8.15pm on Saturday and Croatia is confident of victory that it has hired the top room in the York Butter Factory, a well-known Melbourne night spot, in which to hold its celebrations.

ing prowess then Croatia will win.

The curtain raiser is the Buffalo Junior Cup Final between Croatia and Brunswick Juniors. That game gets underway at 6.15pm.

The biggest difference between Croatia and Hellas lies in attack.

Hellas boasts two front runners whose

ability at this level is proven — Charlie Egan and Danny Wright.

Lewis has shown what he's capable of over the last few seasons and certainly there are few forwards who take their chances as well as the Croatia ace. However, Hennessy has used both Andy Humble and Tony Lemezina as Lewis's

partners in the Buffalo Cup which shows that the Croatia boss is a bit undecided about that other berth in attack. Of course, should Wallace arrive in time he'll partner Lewis.

The last time these sides met in a Buffalo Cup Final — back in 1984 — they turned on one of the finest spectacles for years. That

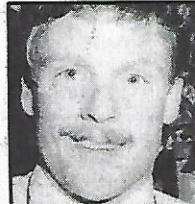
clash had everything and had fans on their feet for most of the 90 minutes. It had absolutely breathtaking goals — Doug Brown's and Oscar Crino's in particular — and Hellas ran out a 3-1 victor.

But if Hellas has the more settled attack, Croatia has the better defence, in fact Croatia's defensive record in the Buffalo Cup is the finest in the competition. Croatia conceded its first goal of the tournament during last weekend's 2-1 semi-final win over Heidelberg.

Croatia will have to pressure Hellas effectively in midfield to curtail the supply of passes to Egan and Wright and Hellas's most creative midfielder clearly is former Glasgow Celtic player Danny Crainie.

Hellas has been on fire since the start of the Buffalo Cup whereas Croatia gradually has improved. In tournaments such as this that gradual improvement often is the best indicator of final prospects.

Whatever happens, we're in for a titanic struggle. See you at Olympic Park.



• Ally Dick

Makedonia signs up Ally Dick

Preston Makedonia agreed terms with disgruntled Frankston Pines striker Ally Dick this week and hopes to complete his transfer this weekend.

Dick took Pines to the VSF tribal last week and had his transfer fee cut from \$12,500 to \$8,000.

But Makedonia's rebuilding plans don't stop at Dick.

The club has started negotiations with a striker from Yugoslav First Division club Vardar and a striker from Scottish Premier League club Dundee.

Makedonia will sign one of them and which striker gets the nod depends on how negotiations go over the next fortnight.

"We're determined to get a striker who is currently playing at the highest level overseas even if that means that he arrives here two or three weeks later than we would have liked," said Makedonia president John Branov.

Midfielder Zoran Tasevski from Yugoslav Second Division club Tetex, arrives today (Thursday). He played with Vardar from 1976 to 1984. In 1985 he was with Dinamo Vinkovci and moved to Tetex last year.

Relegated clubs owe

West End NSL clubs met in Sydney last weekend and were told that over \$75,000 is owed to the league from clubs relegated last season.

The meeting also revealed details of sponsorship deals involving the South Australian Brewing Company, Beach Fashions and Mitre.

The SA brewers will give the league a cash grant of \$250,000 this year, \$275,000 next year, \$300,000 in 1989 and \$325,000 in 1990.

Beach Fashions, new sponsors of the Leisurewear Cup, will give the league \$35,000 this year, \$40,000 in 1988 and \$45,000 in 1989. Beach Fashions also will supply West End WSL clubs with an extensive range of their products.

Apart from supplying match and training balls, Mitre also will give the league \$15,000 this season.

And club bosses were told that league officials still are negotiating with prospective sponsors and hope to announce other deals shortly.

SBS TV will spend \$50,000 this year to secure rights to West End NSL matches. SBS plans to screen at least six live "Match of the Day" programs in 1987 and also will cover the Leisurewear National Cup which gets underway on April 8, involving just the 14 NSL clubs.

Two clubs will have a bye in the first round of the cup. The first two rounds are expected to be organised on a regional basis and the final will be a two-legged affair. All Cup games will be played on Wednesday nights.

The total prizemoney for the 1987 Leisurewear National Cup is \$67,000. First round winners will receive \$2,000 while losers and the two clubs with a bye will get \$1,000. Second round winners receive \$2,500, losers get \$1,500; semi-final winners receive \$3,000, losers \$2,000 and the Cup winner will earn \$14,000 in prizemoney with the runner-up receiving \$7,000.

Affiliation fees for 1987 were set at \$20,000 per club, to be paid in \$5,000 installments, the first by February 5, the second by April 5, the third by May 5 and the final instalment by June 5. Clubs failing to meet these deadlines could face having league officials manning their gates and having gate money confiscated up to the amount owing.

Each club also will pay \$5,000 to the league for promotions this year.

The launch of the 1987 West End NSL will be held in Sydney on March 23 and will cost \$9,000. The end-of-year awards night will cost \$20,000. Clubs also will contribute to the cost of producing TV advertising which amounts to \$25,000. In all, the league has budgeted to spend \$60,000 on TV advertising this year. And \$10,000 has been set aside for newspaper advertising.

Some clubs wanted to change the system of player cautions, preferring a system whereby three cautions automatically incurred a one-match suspension but that move was outvoted. The current points system of a one-game suspension for accumulating 12 points and two games for 24 points remains in force.

Referees were granted a \$40 pay rise for West End NSL matches. In 1987, the refs will earn \$150 a game, linesmen \$60 and inspectors \$30. St George and national coach Frank Arok argued strongly for a \$250 match payment for referees but didn't get the numbers.

"Bloody hell, if we want professionalism in this game then let's pay referees a decent wage so that we can attract the best people

possible. Why does everyone keep saying that the referees are terrible when there is no incentive to get the best people into the best competition?" said Arok.

Nick Papalia, the former APIA chairman; Tony Kovac, honorary life president of Footscray JUST; and Michael Weinstein, former VSP chairman, were elected to the league's executive. Sam Papasavas remains chairman of the West End NSL and Tony Labbozetta is vice chairman.

— CRAIG MAC KENZIE

Doumanis: Milan Lukic will stay

Sydney Olympic president Tom Doumanis this week angrily denied rumors that his club was about to dump coach Milan Lukic.

"What a load of crap," said Doumanis.

"All this sort of talk has come about because we sacked Vicente Estavillo and Peter Katholos but it's just a storm in a tea cup and when Mike Coady and Martyn Rogers come back from England our supporters see what sort of team we have this whole matter will be forgotten.

"As far as our club is concerned we are 100 percent behind Milan Lukic.

"The Estavillo thing was a very difficult situation for us. To put it bluntly, we couldn't afford to pay him what his talents deserve while he's sitting on the bench or in the grandstand.

Maybe others can afford that luxury but not Olympic."

APIA and Footscray interest is in Katholos, who has played for the Socceros in the past and also played with Greek club Larissa. Lukic apparently made the decision to dump the pair because he believed that too many holes were appearing in Olympic's midfield. Estavillo and Katholos were dumped after Olympic's shock 1-0 loss to Blacktown in the quarter-finals of the State Bank Challenge Cup.

"Skill and flair may look great from the grandstand but it doesn't mean a thing if you don't get results," said Doumanis.

"Our supporters want to see a winning Olympic side and I think that's what they're going to see soon."

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Survival of the species was in their own hands

Although never featuring the *creme de la creme* of world soccer, the President's Cup, in which Australia is to make its debut this year, has certainly attracted some of the better teams among the skinned milk.

Donated by the late South Korean president Park Chung Hee in 1971 and originally intended to match South Korea against its east Asian neighbours, the President's Cup has survived in status alongside the host's international soccer aspirations. It is now among the most prestigious annual tournaments in Asia.

After restricting entrants to Asian teams during the Cup's first five years, the organisers, the South Korean federation, then looked beyond its own continent for participants. Since 1976, 37 countries have been represented.

Among the illustrious sides to journey to Korea have been the Sao Paulo state selection, Bangui and Athletico Mineiro (Brazil), Washington Diplomats

President's Cup is Asia's best

(USA), Racing Cordoba and Huracan (Argentina), PSV Eindhoven (Holland), Alianza (Peru), Cercle Bruges and Lierse (Belgium), Central Espanol (Uruguay) and Bayer Leverkusen (West Germany), as well as Asian, African and Central American national selections.

The combined factors of strong visiting teams, the always competitive South Korean combinations determination to impress, the enthusiasm of large crowds (75,000 saw last year's final) and of the earlier games drew attendances over 10,000 and substantial prize money make the Presi-

dent's Cup a very competitive event.

In addition, the Socceroos will be given an early opportunity to experience the conditions they can expect if qualifying for next year's Olympic finals. Like the Olympics, the President's Cup will be staged in the provincial cities of Pusan, Taegu, Kwang Ju and Taejon in addition to Seoul.

Certainly, the President's Cup will be of much greater value to the Australians than a semi-serious tournament involving British teams likely to be tourists in every sense of the word.

— PAUL MOON



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Just in case you think I am somewhat obsessed with the ethnic issue of soccer, you're damn right. For too long this "delicate matter" has been either ignored or, worse, crudely manhandled. Senior soccer in this country, say at NSL level, is very much an ethnic affair, those who pretend otherwise are only fooling themselves.

Of course, this doesn't excuse the soccer-loving Australians and one can only wish that we had more of them. But we don't and I guess soccer will never be a more "important" sport (to the public and the media) than cricket is in Argentina or surfing in landlocked Liechtenstein.

But back to the NSL. A few weeks ago in a brief essay, I wrote about the "Club Med" character of the League, that 12 of the 14 clubs are backed by clubs and people from the shores of the Mediterranean and that some 100,000 all 14 will be in the same fold.

Once Sydney City and St. George, with gradually melting support, decide to throw in the towel, we won't have any non-Med club in the NSL until, perhaps, one day the Lebanese, Chinese, Vietnamese or the dormant South Americans will create one.

All this was plainly avoidable when the NSL was formed — and I don't use 20/20 hindsight for this statement.

When vague plans and ideas were tossed about in 1975 for the start of the NSL, it seemed clear to me that the spiritual leadership and organisational ability was provided by officials of Hakoah and St. George, bulldozing the League through to its birth with the ASF at first opposed, then consenting to the idea and ultimately cleverly giving control.

Both Hakoah and St. George felt, at that time — very correctly, too — that without a viable national league they themselves would wither and oblivion.

For them the national league was a matter of life and death.

What they didn't say was that the league was far less important to clubs like Juventus, Adelaide, Melbourne, Hellas, Marconi and others who would, through the sheer strength of their following, survive if not prosper, in ANY league.

That's why the early leadership of the NSL came from these two clubs in the persons of Frank Lowy and Alex Pongras.

Had they accepted one vital piece of advice, perhaps the NSL would be a bit stronger and less Club-Med like at present and in the years to come.

My advice was simple: right from the start, in 1977, make clubs split all gate revenues, somewhat along the lines of the National Football League in the USA where the ratio is 60% to the home team and 40% to the visitors.

It was obvious to me then, some 12 years ago, that because of the peculiar geographic and other problems in Australia, such a split was necessary to ensure the survival of clubs without the huge populations of Greek and Italian colonies.

This may sound a little para-

THE ANDREW DETTRE COLUMN



silical; some may argue that I am advocating a system whereby clubs with less populous support benefit from the presence of others. Yes I do.

Such a system is not really new; it has been used successfully in very many European countries for ages.

The logic of it is simply this: if, say, a Hakoah team is able to pack a stadium in Melbourne or Adelaide, why shouldn't they share the financial benefit of their own appeal?

That's exactly what has been happening in the NSL for many years now: Hakoah, with first class management and coaching, have been able to dominate the NSL and, through their own special appeal, drawing excellent crowds in other cities — and at other Sydney grounds — without getting a single penny for it.

And because they themselves have no potential power base, relying on the very small Jewish community of Sydney, they are now continuously flirting with the idea of packing it in and forgetting about senior soccer.

And all this by a club which has a classier clubhouse, at Bondi, than any other football (not just soccer) club in the country.

Of course, I could have used St. George too, as an example who are only a few feet step behind Hakoah but without their ally's brilliant results.

And this despite owning a marvellous, large social club and Sydney's most modern soccer stadium ...

Meanwhile, Sydney Olympic and their predecessors, Pan Hellenic, haven't got either a clubhouse or a home ground to show for some 30 years of effort ... but will survive in the NSL because there happen to be some 300,000 Greeks in Sydney (maybe 200,000 maybe 400,000). I don't know.

Had the shared-gate takings been part and parcel of the NSL from the start, the present lopsided ethnic distribution of clubs could have been avoided.

Even Brisbane Lions (Dutch-based) might have survived; after all, for most of their NSL sojourn, they had one of the best and most progressive managements in the country and are still an affluent club with investments. The only 'crime' is that the largely English-speaking Dutch migrants have been sucked into the Australian community and vanished, rather than forming a "Little Rotterdam" at Marrickville, Leichhardt, Fairfield, St. Kilda and elsewhere.

Of course, it's too late now to introduce a gate sharing plan: the more populous clubs merely shrug, their shoulders over the plight of their less fortunate colleagues and try to ensure their own survival.

The time to do that was early in the piece when the leadership was in the hands of Hakoah and St. George.

They could have done it. They created the NSL, built a vital foundation in the structure — and thereby ensured their own early demise.

Vae victis, as the Latins used to say.

English fans rampage!

English fans went on the rampage in the midland city of Derby last week setting fire to a car and attacking a black community centre, police said.

A spokeswoman said 20 fans were arrested during unrest before a match between Derby

County and Portsmouth, two second-division clubs. Two policemen were hurt.

The spokeswoman said the trouble started when some 60 youths from Portsmouth in southern England, attacked the centre, causing considerable damage but slight injuries to people inside.

TINY TOGO'S OFF TO CHILE

The small African republic of Togo has qualified for the World Youth Championship Finals to be held later this year in Chile.

Already, eight nations have qualified. The European qualifying series gets underway shortly.

Let's look at the continental

MEXICO BEST

Mexico has played in all five World Youth Championship finals, a feat unmatched in world soccer.

The youth finals are held every two years. The first finals were held in Tunisia in 1977. Since then the venues have been Japan, Australia, Mexico and the USSR.

Australia has figured in three youth finals series.

Here is the list of participation in previous finals series:

5: Mexico
 4: Brazil, Uruguay, USSR, Spain
 3: Argentina, Poland, Korea Rep, Paraguay, Australia, Hungary
 1: Nigeria, England, China PR, Ivory Coast, USA, Canada, Italy, Tunisia, Australia
 1: Germany FR, Romania, Qatar, Honduras, Bulgaria, Scotland, Czechoslovakia, Netherlands, Egypt, Portugal, Algeria, Colombia, France, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Yugoslavia, Japan, Iraq, Cameroon, Ireland, Rep, Morocco, Guinea, Indonesia

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onship 1987, Quarter Finals:

17.10.86 Ivory Coast v Morocco 2:0

17.10.86 Mozambique v Somalia 0:0

17.10.86 Nigeria v Egypt 4:0

19.10.86 Tunisia v Togo 1:1

7.11.86 Togo v Tunisia 0:0

22.11.86 Egypt v Nigeria 2:1

Finals: 12.12.86 Morocco v Togo 1:0, Nigeria v Somalia 1:0

11.1.87 Somalia v Nigeria 0:1, Togo v Morocco 2:0.

Qualified for the IV FIFA World Youth Championship 1987.

TOGO, NIGERIA, OCEANIA (OFC)

Oceania Youth Tournament 1987, Auckland, New Zealand:

17.1.87 Australia v Fiji 7:0, New Zealand v Israel 1:1.

19.1.87 Fiji v Chinese Taipei 3:3, Australia v Israel 1:1.

21.1.87 Fiji v Israel 0:4, Chinese Taipei v N. Zealand 0:0.

23.1.87 Fiji v New Zealand 0:0, Chinese Taipei v Australia 0:5.

26.1.87 Israel v Chinese Taipei 5:1, New Zealand v Australia 0:3.

Qualified for the IV World Youth Championship 1987:

AUSTRALIA, CONMEBOL

Group A:

23.1.87 Brazil v Ecuador 2:0.

24.1.87 Argentina v Peru 3:2.

26.1.87 Argentina v Ecuador 0:0.

28.1.87 Ecuador v Peru 2:1.

30.1.87 Argentina v Brazil 1:0.

1.2.87 Brazil v Peru 5:1.

W D L F A P

Australia 3 1 0 15 7 4

Brazil 0 0 2 4 2 4

Argentina 1 0 2 5 7 2

Uruguay 0 1 2 3 6 1

Qualified for the IV World Youth Championship 1987:

CHILE, BRAZIL, LOMBIA, BRAZIL

Group B:

17.8.86 Chile v Surinam 2:1, Mexico v Argentina 0:0.

19.8.86 Jamaica v Mexico 0:0, USA v Cuba 0:0.

21.8.86 Jamaica v USA 0:5, Surinam v Mexico 1:3

23.8.86 Surinam v Chile 0:1, Cuba v Mexico 0:1.

25.8.86 USA v Surinam 0:1, Jamaica v Cuba 0:2.

Final phase:

27.8.86 Chile v Canada 2:1, Trinidad/Tobago v Cuba 0:0.

29.8.86 Barbados v Cuba 0:1, Trinidad/Tobago v Canada 0:5.

31.8.86 Surinam v Chile 2:1, Trinidad/Tobago v USA 1:0.

W D L F A P

USA 2 1 0 15 7 5

Cuba 2 1 1 5 2 5

Barbados 2 1 0 4 2 4

Trinidad/Tobago 0 1 1 4 4 5

Surinam 0 1 2 6 5 12

Jamaica 0 1 3 1 11 1

Final phase:

27.8.86 Chile v Canada 2:1, Trinidad/Tobago v Cuba 0:0.

29.8.86 Barbados v Cuba 0:1, Trinidad/Tobago v Canada 0:5.

31.8.86 Surinam v Chile 2:1, Trinidad/Tobago v USA 1:0.

W D L F A P

Canada 2 1 0 8 2 5

USA 1 1 1 2 3 3

Tobago 0 1 1 1 5 3

Barbados 0 1 1 3 1 1

Qualified for the IV World Youth Championship 1987:

CANADA, USA

'Davo,' Crino, Roos again?

By
CRAIG
MAC KENZIE



• Alan Davidson

Oscar Crino and Alan Davidson will return to the Soccerroo training squad next month and there's every chance that Danny Crainie, Angie Postecoglou and George Hannah also will be in the squad preparing for the international tournament in Australia in May-June and the President's Cup in South Korea.

National coach Frank Arok watched the semi-finals of the Buffalo Cup last Saturday night and said that he was keen to have two of his former stars back in action.

"We'll include both Davidson and Crino in our camps. I know that Crino is out of the game because of the problems he's having with his club in Cyprus (Anorthosis) but no one can stop us from having a normal relationship with him," said Arok.

The main Soccerroo squad won't play in Perth in the big international tournament organised by Westay. I know that Crino is out of the game because of the problems he's having with his club in Cyprus (Anorthosis) but no one can stop us from having a normal relationship with him," said Arok.

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A second-string Soccerroo squad will complete Australia's commitments in the Westay tournament but Arok has made it clear that that squad will be very competitive.

"We have to please the sponsors and maintain a high degree of competitiveness in what people are calling our second-string side," Guy, like John Koerner, is back. Ozdakov no longer represent the future of the national team but they still are great players and I'm hoping that they'll play for us in Perth. Ozdakov was absolutely outstanding last Sunday in the final of the State Bank Challenge Cup."

Arok will take a squad of 18 to Korea, leaving assistant coach Eddie Thomson to look after the other 18-man squad which will compete in the later stages of the Westay tournament.

Arok received good news this week when sweeper and Soccerroo captain Charlie Yankos of APIA had a protective brace removed from his right leg after sustaining a knee injury in the early rounds of the State Bank Challenge Cup.

Yankos immediately started jogging and is confident of being ready for the opening round of the 1987 West End NSL on the weekend of March 28 and 29.

"It's good news that I can at last get back into full training," Yankos said.

"I had to walk around at first just to get used to being without the brace and I have another appointment with my specialist shortly but it looks as though I'll be able to play in the opening league game against St George."

Arok planned to start a series of training camps on Wednesday, April 8, but that plan has been thrown into confusion for the Leisurewear National Cup kicks off that night.

"Great, isn't it? Once again we can't get things organised for the national team. It's bloody hopeless," said Arok.

The schedule for the Westay tournament is:

Monday, May 25: Australia v Nottingham Forest at Parramatta Stadium in Sydney.

Wednesday, May 27: Australia v Manchester United at Olympic Park No. 1 in Melbourne.

Friday, May 29: Nottingham Forest v Celtic at Hindmarsh Stadium in Adelaide.

Saturday, May 30: Manchester United v Celtic at Hindmarsh Stadium in Adelaide.

Saturday, May 31: Nottingham Forest v Manchester United at the WACA in Perth.

Tuesday, June 2: Australia v Celtic at the WACA in Perth.

Thursday, June 4: Finals double header, 4th v 3rd, 2nd v 1st at the WACA in Perth.

All games will be played un-

Footscray JUST last weekend raised \$100,000 at an extra-ordinary general meeting and this weekend Tony Amon is expected to return to the presidency.

Amon resigned during the off-season after members voted against his proposal to turn the club into a company and sell shares to members.

That share issue is expected to be passed at another club meeting at Schnitter Reserve this Sunday and Amon is expected to take over from his successor, George Marinkovic but Marinkovic should remain on the JUST executive.

The \$100,000 was raised through \$5,000 donations from 20 members. Throughout this week other members have been approached by the club to make a similar donation and on Sunday, all those chipping in \$5,000 will vote on the composition of the club's board of management.

If, as expected, Amon's share proposal is passed at Sunday's meeting, only 49 percent of the share issue will be available to members.

JUST coach Dragoslav Sekularac called on the committee recently to buy players and was very pleased at the outcome of last weekend's meeting.

"JUST fans can expect us now to again have a very strong team," said Sekularac.

JUST gets \$100,000

Yugoslav import Alex Radivojevic arrived yesterday (Wednesday) and Sekularac hasn't given up hope of luring back Vlado Stosic, who joined JUST last year and made a huge impression. Stosic currently is playing with Yugoslav Second Division club Mladjanpek, on loan from Red Star Belgrade.

JUST currently is negotiating with six top-class players in Australia and as we went to press still had made the best offer to former Soccerroo Peter Katholos, who quit Sydney Olympic two weeks ago, although the midfielder also was considering an offer from APIA. Katholos and his wife recently bought a new house in Sydney so he's a bit reluctant to head south.

Yugoslavia's top ref has settled in Sydney

Stojan Iljevski, the Yugoslav arbiter, has migrated to Australia. And if his credentials are any indication of his class then we are going to have a fine addition to our refereeing ranks.

At 39 years of age Iljevski has an outstanding reputation.

During the last World Youth Cup Finals he was voted the best referee of the tournament.

He has been a constant fixture at First Division games in Yugoslavia over the last five years.

Iljevski was at the State Bank Challenge Cup Final in Sydney last Sunday and is very keen to continue his refereeing career in Australia.

Redmond is listed

Tony Redmond was transferred listed by Melbourne Croatia last week at \$5,000 but that figure is negotiable.

Redmond joined Croatia last year from Brisbane Lions for \$2,000. He's a former Canberra player and can be used in either defence or midfield.

Clubs interested in contacting Redmond can do so by phoning Croatia coach Terry Hennedy at home on 222 322.

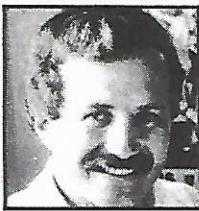
Bobby Toal available

Bobby Toal has been transferred listed by Victorian State League club Northcote as his own request.

Toal, 29, is a former Geelong, George Cross and Green Gully striker and scored nine goals in 11 games with Northcote last season.

Clubs interested in signing Toal can contact him at home on 367 5031.

WA taxpayers can breathe a sigh of relief



• Grant Lee



• Tom McCullough

Straight Shooting with PETER SCOTT

as health, education, assistance to needy families, easing the burden of sky-high interest rates on small businessmen and homeowners — the list is endless.

As reported on the front page of 'Soccer Action' a fortnight ago, the WASF knocked on the head a scheme which would have involved \$5 million in funding from the State government.

For what I read the whole convoluted plan sounds like a bunch of dreamers up by people with just a bit too much free time on their hands!

An astro-turf stadium? An eight team "pro" league? A 100,000-seat stadium? Just one venue (the "Super Stadium")? Less!

And, last but not least, a government-appointed commission taking over the running of soccer's affairs from WASF officials?

Has everyone gone crazy?

Let's take some of the relevant points one by one.

What benefit is it to soccer to have matches played exclusively on artificial turf, a surface unique, disliked and almost universally ignored in world soccer?

How would such conditions prepare our youngsters to taking on foreign opposition on natural grass and why artificial turf needed in the excellent climate of Perth?

Most of all, I would like to ponder how the concentration of all teams in one arena — thus destroying any semblance of district or community identity even before the first ball is kicked — could assist in the promotion of soccer and the spreading of its message to all corners of WA?

Do the gurus of the west know something none of the rest of us do?

And this brings me to the piece de resistance — a government-appointed commission, no less.

Now, keen readers of Soccer Action over the past month should be aware that I and my colleagues have had occasion to criticise soccer administrators.

But, whatever its shortcomings, the present government is still a lot better than the intrusion of government to a larger extent than it already has.

AIS blues

Under this off-baked proposition, soccer in the west would have nothing more than an appendage of the public service, or another of the dreaded quangos.

And we know how well the State and Federal Public services we are blessed with in this country work.

No sir, the last thing that sport in general and soccer in particular needs in this country is a controlling involvement by governments of any kind!

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Raskopoulos: Marconi's sensational!

Though Sydney Olympic's long serving Peter Raskopoulos has a reputation for having the occasional bet, he won't be putting any money on Olympic to win the league this season.

"I can't afford to bet," Raskopoulos jokes, "the club doesn't pay me enough. I must be the lowest paid player around here now!"

There certainly has been

an influx of expensive new stars to the Olympic line-up over the close-season with the list headed by David Ratcliffe and John Kosmina.

"It's not just experience that these two have to offer Olympic but also their sheer professionalism."

By
JOHN
MANGAN

significance — they really are both true professionals and it's an education to work with them. With them behind us, I'm really confident about the coming season," says Raskopoulos.

For all Raskopoulos's confidence, Olympic suffered an untimely exit from the State Bank Challenge Cup at the hands of Blacktown.

"We really blew that game. I don't want to take anything away from Blacktown but we were our own undoing that day. We weren't motivated. We didn't approach the game in the right frame of mind, but I can assure you we will a totally different story when the National League starts. It would have been nice to win the pre-season competition but our preparations are geared towards the beginning of the league season.

"Aside from the game against Blacktown, we gave an

indication of what we can do when we beat Canterbury 3-1, so we can obviously score goals."

As well as the new players, Olympic has a new coach, Yugoslavia's Milan Lukic.

"Milan has really been an instant success at the club and has got the team looking very good," says the midfielder.

Olympic will need to be good to make headway in this season's smaller, more competitive National League. Although Raskopoulos confesses to not knowing too much about Adelaide, Juventus or the Melbourne clubs he has seen the other Sydney sides in action in the State Bank Cup.

"It is playing sensationalistically at the moment. The side is scoring a lot of goals. Croatia is a worry too. I think Sydney City could surprise people. Though Eddie Thompson has lost a few men he's got some good young players there."

Raskopoulos began his playing career with Elwood Juniors and moved to Pan Hellenic at the age of 13. He played first, second and third grade games for Pan Hellenic and became

part of the Sydney Olympic set-up.

In 1978 with Sydney Olympic not competing in the National League, Raskopoulos made the move to Marconi, but moved straight back to Olympic when his old club returned to the National League the following season.

Since then he has featured in the Olympic team and made his mark on the international scene as well. He played in the Australian youth teams that competed in the 1979 and 1981 World Youth Cups and has since represented Australia at senior level.

"I've played a few games for Australia since 1981. I'm not really sure how many, I'm not really into the statistics much."

Raskopoulos has in fact worn the green and gold on 29 occasions and played in the Socceroos tour of China last year.

And apart from his commitments to Olympic and the Socceroos, Raskopoulos also has entered the commercial world, recently purchasing a laundromat.

As it is, Raskopoulos has a big year ahead of him. His confident, casual air should stand him in good stead when the pressure is applied both by the club's new signings for places in the team, and by the other clubs for West End — NSW points as the season unfolds.



• David Ratcliffe (left) and John Kosmina. "It's not just experience that these two have to offer Olympic but also their sheer professionalism."



• Peter Raskopoulos in action for the Socceroos. "Milan (Lukic) has been an instant success."

Falcons to fly high again

Not many clubs can boast a record as spectacular as that of Morwell Falcons.

They rose from the relative obscurity of the Latrobe Valley competition to the Victorian State League in 10 years, winning the State League title and State League Cup, just seven years after starting their campaign for State honours in the Provisional League.

Much of the success of the club can be directly attributed to the leadership and financial support of prominent Latrobe Valley businessman Don Difabrizio!

Don joined the Falcons in 1969 and guided them through their history-making elevation

to the Victorian championship in an unbroken reign as president for 12 years.

After topping the Provisional League in 1974, 1975 and 1976, the club won promotion through the Metropolitan Divisions each year, with the exception of 1978 when it finished third goal difference in Third Division.

Significantly, Difabrizio was away on an extended overseas holiday that year, highlighting the obvious influence his involvement has on the fortunes of the club.

Achievements on the playing field are only part of the Morwell Falcons story. In addition to their assault on the Victorian Leagues, the Falcons also built a complex which is unequalled in Victoria.

A total area of some 900 square metres, comprises a main function room with a seating capacity of 500, a members' bar with seating for 100, two other bars, a professionally equipped kitchen, offices, storerooms and dressing rooms.

Obviously, no expense was spared to create a club of which not only the soccer fraternity but the whole Latrobe Valley can be proud of. Some 450 members enjoy the facilities of this fully licensed club, and the main hall is regularly booked for engagement and wedding parties and most football clubs in the area rent it for their end-of-season dances.

The latest project currently under construction is the floodlighting of the main pitch. According to Difabrizio, the lights will be second only to Olympic Park No. 1 in capacity, and will be perfectly suitable for night matches at any level.

Elected life member in 1979 and club patron in 1980, Difabrizio decided to retire from the presidency and the direct management of the club, following its most successful year in 1984. The ensuing two years without Difabrizio, were not particularly noteworthy.

Although not directly involved in the day-to-day affairs of the club, Difabrizio was available for consultation and continued to provide financial support. In fact, the members' bar which opened last year was his project, both organisationally and, to a large extent, financially.

Concerned that after two years off the scene, the club may have been heading for a downturn in fortunes, Difabrizio made a comeback to active duty and was nominated and duly elected president again at the end of last year.

"Firstly let me stress that I have always been very fortunate to have the support of excellent committees. I am sure that our executive committee and executive are again outstanding in quality and application and as a consequence, there is great optimism and harmony at the club again," said Difabrizio.

"We also have a fine junior set-up, an active ladies auxiliary, a good coaching staff headed by Dave O'Connor and his assistant Gerry Connor, and a settled playing squad having retained not only two players from last year, Jimmy Train moved to North Dandenong on a free transfer after giving



four years of great service to the club, Peter Verechia was transferred to Fawkner and we signed Stan Webster from Frankston Pines to replace him.

"So we have the necessary pre-requisites to approach the start of the season with a degree of confidence.

"As far as objectives are concerned, perhaps the most important priority is to optimise the use of our facilities, generate more sponsorship and settle our financial commitments. The building of our facilities cost about \$500,000 in cash, plus or minus almost equal value in voluntary labor. Part of the cost was financed through the bar, and I want to pay this off within two years."

"Our biggest expenditure this year will be on floodlights, some \$70,000 in direct costs. So you can see that good financial management is of paramount importance. I want to see the club in a position where it can use this year's profit next year, rather than use this year's income to pay off last year's commitments!"

"My next objective is to increase the local content of our first team squad. We already have a number of Latrobe Valley boys in the first team and many potential first team players in the reserves and a constant source of talent through the junior set-up in the Latrobe Valley."

"Don't underestimate the man and potential of Morwell Falcons. With his 'strike-rate' anything is possible."

Terzini: I want another chance

Goalkeeper Robert Terzini has no regrets about the breakdown in negotiations over his contract with Victorian State League club Fawkner.

Scots or other people go a go as long as they were local boys," says Terzini.

Fawkner has had a procession of top-line coaches while Terzini has been there starting with Mike Lynn and then Cedo Cirkovic. Fawkner won the Dockey Cup in 1984 under Gus MacLeod.

Fawkner has just added a new goalkeeper to its squad — Charlie Kasimas from Wittenoom.

"I dropped out of the Fawkner team last year when I had an operation on my shoulder. Although I could have gone back earlier, the doctors told me that the longer I left it, the better my shoulder would recover."

"I have been training hard recently, getting back to peak fitness and have been lifting a lot of weights to build up strength in my arms so that I don't get the same sort of injury again."

"I want to play State League this season — that's why I'm training so hard at the moment. I know I can, and I've proven it in the past. I realise that people may have doubts about me because I was out last season but if they give me a chance and see me in action I can show them that I'm back to full fitness."

Starling his career with Juventus, Terzini joined Fawkner when it was in the Third Division of the old Metropolitan League. The club won successive championships from 1980 to 1982 to climb into State League.

"Greg Schipano, the president of Fawkner, was the driving force behind the club's success. It was his dream to make Fawkner a big club. Though the club build its team on Italian foundations it was never afraid to give Greeks,

• Robert Terzini, a man in a dark shirt, looking upwards.

• High flying Fawkner goalie Rob Terzini punches clear, Terzini and Fawkner failed to reach an agreement over a new contract but the former Brunswick Juventus

DAFCO WORLD SPORT



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- Match Balls, hand sewn by mastercraftsmen
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double C

- First quality nylon wound match balls
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A1 DISCOUNT SPORTS

The A1 Discount Sports chain of retail stores has entered the soccer market-place.

The A1 chain has seven stores in Victoria located in Moorabbin, Elizabeth Street in the City, Dandenong, Malvern, Flemington, Newborough and Mildura. This year the stores are stocking a broad range of boots by Puma, Lotto, Diadora and Adidas, and a wide range of soccer equipment.

Phil Domino is the Marketing Manager of A1 and is available to discuss discounts with clubs on bulk purchases. He can be contacted at the chain's Mentone headquarters on 583 9800.

The A1 chain plans to open more stores during the year and will keep customers informed through 'Soccer Action'.

CRANBOURNE SOCCER CLUB SENIOR PLAYERS REQUIRED

U/14, U/15, U/16 also required

All enquiries to club secretary

03 591 06 1616



• High flying Fawkner goalie Rob Terzini punches clear, Terzini and Fawkner failed to reach an agreement over a new contract but the former Brunswick Juventus

State Bank Cup
with ALEX VESIC

SYDNEY CROATIA 2
(Slater 10th, Jones 78th) **MARCONI 1**
(Wheatley 73rd) at Marconi Stadium, last Sunday. State Bank Challenge Cup Final. Crowd: 10,539. Caution: Farina (M). Sent off: Lowe (M) 89th. Referee: Gary Power 8.

CROATIA: Franken 8, —; Savor 8, Rozic 9, Vlietstra 7, Jennings 8, —; Rezo 6, Jones 5, Ozdakov 9, —; Slater 8, Arnold.

MARCONI: James 7, —; Carter 6 (Gunning 71st), Hen-

derson 7, Gomez 7, Wheatley 8, Nashevski 8, Gray 6, Mason 7, Nashevski 8, —; Farina 6, Maxwell 5.

Croatia celebrated its second successive pre-season Cup Final win after a bruising battle with Marconi.

It was not a game for the faint hearted as both sets of players went into battle in search of the new State Bank Challenge Cup.

The man of the match was Vedran Rozic, followed closely by team mate Zarko Ozdakov. Rozic engineered the downfall of Marconi by stalling the ball.

Worries about the ability of Maxwell, Farina and Nashevski

or set plays with Henderson and Gomez coming forward were soon wiped out with Mark Jones tailing Zlatko Nashevski and Wally Savor showing Frank Farina.

And while Savor did a fine job on his Soccerpro team mate, Nashevski showed all his skills, but with real intent from the rest of Marconi's forwards.

His ability to shield the ball caused Jones to commit a number of fouls and twice Nashevski found himself in his familiar free kick position near the penalty area.

In the 37th minute he floated

his free kick just over the bar from some 28 metres then, a minute later he gave Tony Franken no chance with a Platini-type free kick but the ball hit the post.

With Marconi still in search of a goal Nashevski grabbed possession of the ball and raced some 40 metres then managed to deceive Rozic and send Maxwell through to face Franken. Only a chip was needed but Maxwell missed it and Croatia lived to fight on.

Nashevski was also on the spot to serve Ian Gray after playing a neat one-two with his

midfield partner. Gray walked into the area but his shot was deflected for a corner at the last moment.

But Rozic came up with the winning formula.

With Jones chasing Nashevski and Savor chasing Farina Maxwell was faced with the enormous task of beating both Rozic and Ray Vlietstra on his own and that was just not on. Rozic marshalled his men as if it was his own life depended on it.

Frequently he remonstrated with the referee over the treatment his players were getting from a certain Marconi forward, but he never lost his cool.

Ozdakov was his captain's mainstay. He constantly beat Craig Mason for the ball in midfield and exerted the sort of superiority you expect from this classy ex-Vardar player. His ball control and passing gave this game a new dimension and he drew an excited comment from spectator Raul Blanco: "Ozdakov is all class".

Ozdakov never gave up and drew applause for some of his skills. Twice he sent players

through to face James, but neither managed to finish well. His best effort was in the 83rd minute when he drew out two Marconi players then cleverly sent a through ball for Robbie Slater to face James. Slater went wide then cut back infield around Rob Wheatley but his final shot bounced off James to safety.

Slater missed that one but got the goal that mattered.

After only 10 minutes and with Paul Carter on the ball few would expect problems for Marconi. But Carter's pass was over-weight and James had to dive for it. Carter managed to get to the ball but Slater challenged and the ball ran loose. Slater calmly planted it into the net for the opening goal.

Marconi's players claimed that their keeper had been in possession of the ball but to no avail.

Slater continued his good form and worried Marconi's duo of Gerry Gomez and Tony Henderson for the entire game.

After half an hour Slater stepped away from Marconi's defence but his final shot was

well parried by James.

Marconi equalised through Wheatley. And it came after a master stroke by Roberto Vieri, the coach of Marconi. Vieri sent Geoff Gunning on for Carter. Out went a Marconi defender and on came a striker. For a moment Jones was found tailing Gunning but not all that well as Gunning managed to swerve on the edge of the area and send in a useful low cross. Wheatley managed to get to the ball and send it wide of Franken to equalise.

Marconi's defence relaxed a few moments later and paid the price. From a quickly taken throw, Graham Jennings was left all alone on the left flank and his well-directed cross found Graeme Arnold at the far post. A header by Arnold, followed by another from Jones close to the line saw James only able to deflect the ball into the net.

David Lowe was sent off minutes later, obviously for something he said and so ended a sad tale for Marconi and a happy one for Croatia.



• Melita Eagles had an outstanding year in 1986 and they'll be one of the teams to beat again this season. Here's their 1986 squad, back row: Hogart, McCoy, Meerbain, Hassan, Griffith, Dalton, Pupovac, Vial, Williams, Stone, Serbas, K Wilson, A Wilson (trainer). Front: J Gallacher, MacAusland, Laing, Foxman, Farnsworth, Tredinnick, Farrugia, Sammut (team manager). Missing: Callanan, McFadden.

Kapetanovic quits!

By
ALEX
VESIC

and Byrne will have to fight hard to find a spot in this team.

Canberra

Augusto Palacios has come back to take charge of Canberra City with one thing in mind: I-1 to get back into the NSL via the quickest route possible!

Kenny Wilson has retained the captaincy and the experienced defender can be expected to lead by example. Craig Williams, Graeme Lomax, Tony Cabassi, Billy Griffiths and Greg McCoy have the speed and the enthusiasm to ensure that that most solid of all defences in State League.

Up front, Andrew Serbas, John Foxman and Warren Dalton all will be vying for positions in what is a very strong squad under the guidance of coach Dennis Hoggart.

Blacktown

When Les Scheinfug took over the position of senior coach at Blacktown at the end of the 1986 season there was no doubt in my mind that Peter Thorne had chosen well and clearly intends to return to the NSL.

"Les is the coach of the Australian youth team and we had no hesitation in offering him a challenging position at our club. We intend to build on our youth. The job which started with Rale Radic at this club will now continue in earnest under Les," said Thorne.

"We are working on a three-year program and our immediate aim is to create a side that will be able to compete against the best Australia can offer."

Ralph Maier and Bobby Naumov were drafted from Newcastle, William Jeffreys from Kettering in the UK, Lazaros Bilek and Kostas Reynolds from the present Australian under-19 side and Glen Sterrey from Narrabeen. Steve Watson joined from Croatia and along with 12 players from the last year's side Scheinfug has assembled a fine squad.

It is no secret that the Demons are going all out to win the league. Their aspirations will be greatly helped by the energetic Paul Kay, the skilful Brett Thorntwaite, Speedy Brian Eleem and an efficient Adam Sandy. Darren Northam who so easily blocked out Marshall Soper in the quarter finals of the State Bank Challenge Cup will retain his position in defence while Quarmby.

The Eagles enjoyed their most successful season ever in 1986 and this year the team has been strengthened by the inclusion of 24-year-old Kiwi international striker Greg Brown from Miramar. Melita also has signed Anthony Warbourne from Wollongong Macedonia. Warbourne won the 'Soccer Action' under 21 Player of



• Rockdale Linden's Tony Genovese.

goal, David Skeen has returned to the South Coast from St George and will be joined by Giacomo Molland, Scott Dickson and Terry Burrows in the back.

Richard Peil, Jeffrey Ashworth, Lionel Arcoria and Brian Cokely will take up positions in midfield with Rade Stefanovski, Randell Easthope and Robert Giraldi up front.

Some minor changes are possible before the start of a season which could see the revival of Wollongong City.

"We have a lot of grafters, a lot of hard workers, but we need finishers, and I hope to find at least one before the start of the season," said Takac.

Wollongong

On a shoe string budget, the side from the South Coast will be looking to coach John Fleming for miracles. The ex-Oxford and Manchester City player who played with Wollongong City for a number of years before turning to coaching, has an enormous task ahead.

Most of City's recognised men have gone to other clubs, including the departure of Peter Kotamandis and David Batten. Willie Murray has also gone to Sydney and is rumoured to be with Kingsford Olympic.

On the bright side, War-

A waste of time

BLACKTOWN 2
(Sandy 30th, Thorntwaite 74th) **MELITA EAGLES 1** (Callanan 83rd) at Marconi Stadium, last Sunday. Play-off for third place in the State Bank Challenge Cup. Crowd: 10,539. Referee: Richard Lorenz 8.

BLACKTOWN CITY: McPherson 7, —; Sterrey 8, Reynolds 7, Northam 7, —; Jeffrey 7, Kay 8 (Sharp 70th), Eleem 7, —; Sandy 6, Van Blek 8, —.

MELITA EAGLES: Pupovac 8 (Avellino 46th, 7), —; Laing 5, Buchanan 6, Cabassi 7, McPherson 6, Smith 6, McFadden 6; Callanan 7, Farrugia 8, Vial 5, —; Brown 6, Ortiz 5.

An under-strength Melita Eagles went down to Blacktown City Demons in what most observers considered a drab and uneventful exercise.

Jason van Blek was the star of this Blacktown attack as he toyed with the Melita defence to create some fine openings for his team. And it was no surprise when van Blek raced past Laing in the 30th to see the Demons go one up. A deep cross by van Blek found Adam Sandy who headed goalwards.

A valiant attempt by a Melita defender failed to prevent the ball from going into the net.

Jason van Blek continued to torment the Melita defence and soon after the break sent in a searching drive which hit the post.

Melita started to play more composed football and put pressure on the Demons.

When Ray Farrugia made the break in the 67th to send Greg Brown through all looked lost for the Demons. But the ball struck the post and Brown was about to shoot. He quickly changed his mind and the chance had gone begging.

Blacktown went 2-0 up after 73 minutes when David Sharpe chimed into the attack. Sharpe, who had been on for more than two minutes, was quickly into his stride as he crossed. Callanan lobbed the ball to take his course hoping that Avellino would come out of goal but Thorntwaite was there instead and it was 2-0.

Melita never gave up and Lenny Vial faced McPherson but sent his shot wide.

Then with seven minutes to go came Andrew Callanan with a snap shot from the edge of the box which gave Melita its long awaited goal.



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ROUND 1 SUNDAY 15.3.87

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INTER MONARO VS MELITA EAGLES AT MARCO POLO GROUND

URUGUAYAN AUBURN VS WOLLONGONG CITY AT MONA PARK

ROCKDALE ILINDEN VS SUTHERLAND AT HURSTVILLE OVAL

WOLLONGONG MACEDONIA VS NEWCASTLE ROSEBUD AT BERKELEY SPORTS GROUND

CANTERBURY MARRICKVILLE VS CANBERRA CITY AT ARLINGTON OVAL

BLACKTOWN CITY VS WARRINGAH F/WATER AT GABBLE OVAL

EGAN FLIES THE FLAG

SOUTH MELBOURNE
HELLAS 2 (Russell 46th, Egan 52nd)
GEORGE CROSS 1
 (Markovski 37th) at Olympic Park last Saturday night. Buffalo Cup semi-final. Crowd: about 7,000 (double header). Cautions: Russell, Stevenson (SMH); Parton, Campbell (GC). Referee: Bernie Upjohn 1.

SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS: Laumets 7, Russell 7, Blair 1, Anzalone 7, Postecoglou 8, Stevenson 6, McDowell 8, Craine 7, Kalogeros 6 — Wright 6 (Miranda 87th), Egan 8. **Coach:** Brian Gardner.

GEORGE CROSS: Keogh 7 — Marth 8, Parton 8, Taylor 8 (inj. Richardson 83rd), Campbell 7 — Mitten 6 (Faulkner 63rd), MacLaren 6, Innes 7, Markovski 37th, Stevenson 7, Edwards 7 (Trimboli 70th). **Coach:** John Gardner.

Charlie Egan picked up a Hellas flag and waved it in front of the George Cross fans beneath the grandstand before this match. At the end of the game Egan had flown the Hellas flag with distinction up front and had scored the goal that earned the Buffalo Cup favourite a final berth.

This was a spilt game, one that tested the control of

Man of the match:
CHARLIE EGAN
 (SM-Hellas)

referee Bernie Upjohn to the limit and in the final analysis, Upjohn's was a very disappointing performance.

He should have sent off John Campbell in the 23rd minute after an incident that had players milling near the half-way line, pushing and shoving each other. The incident had been sparked by a bad tackle by Bobby Russell and an un-disciplined reaction from Campbell. Russell's studs were shoving and his foot was high as Campbell tried to pass the ball back. Russell's boot made contact with Campbell who spun around and stood over Russell, arms flailing.

Campbell was booked. On three separate incidents later in the match, Campbell was very fortunate indeed not to be sent off.

Campbell is a very underrated player. He's got a damn sight more to offer than some scribbled credit him with, and he's well worth his place in the George Cross line-up but he's going to have to harness his aggression and direct it to purpose which will be of much more benefit to his team.

There were times in this game when what I thought were bad tackles only earned a

play-on signal from referee Upjohn. There were other times when what I thought were legal challenges earned free kicks. I became confused with Upjohn's applications of the rules.

George Cross was the better team in the first half and was unlucky not to carry a 1-0 lead into the interval.

In the 28th minute, Kevin Innes played a one-two with Carl Gilder and hit a swerving shot which went just wide of the far post.

In the 32nd minute John Markovski showed off his superb close control. In nonchalance he kept possession despite the attention of three opponents. He then left the ball inside to Noel Mitten who lost it, won it back then passed to Gilder wide on the right. Gilder played the ball back to Mitten whose cross picked out Andy Edwards on the right of the Hellas area. Edwards was robbed and within seconds Hellas was in attack.

Angie Postecoglou played the ball down the left to Danny Wright but big Shaun Parton raced across and blocked Wright's attempted cross.

Then George Cross struck. In the 37th minute, Mitten was turned into goal first time by Egan who was on a diagonal run. It was a tremendous run. It was the best forward on the park and one of the few strikers in Australian soccer. What a pity that Egan now must walk down the path he chose for himself a couple of years ago when he quit the national squad.

Within a minute of Egan's goal, George Cross almost equalised. Don MacLaren got

headed down but before Garry McDowell could get there Sean Keogh cleared off his line to boot the ball away.

Russell's goal came in the 46th minute of the first half. Play had been held up in the first few minutes while the corner flags were changed and the melee in the 23rd minute also took some time to break up.

Danny Craine's long corner to the far post was aimed at Steve Blair but the ball flew over Blair's head to the unmarked Russell. The Hellas right back struck a firm, left footed shot which eluded the players massing in front of goal and went just inside the far post.

Three minutes into the second half, Hellas should have taken the lead. Postecoglou's far post cross, after a great run down the left wing, was met by the incoming Stevenson. He cut the ball back and first Wright then Egan both missed it completely with the goal at their mercy.

But Hellas didn't have to wait long to hit the front. In the 52nd minute, McDowell found room on the left and his cross toward the near post was turned into goal first time by Egan who was on a diagonal run. It was a tremendous run. It was the best forward on the park and one of the few strikers in Australian soccer. What a pity that Egan now must walk down the path he chose for himself a couple of years ago when he quit the national squad.

Two minutes later Wright lobbed the ball into the George Cross area. Stuart Stevenson

tried on the left of the Hellas area but didn't strike his shot firmly enough and Peter Laumets got down to hold the ball cleanly.

Russell's goal came in the 65th minute and George Cross came within centimetres of levelling in the 79th minute.

Markovski's shot from a free kick was blocked. The ball fell to MacLaren whose curling cross forced Laumets to backpedal and tip the ball over. From the resultant corner the ball came to Andrew Marth wide on the right. He played it across the face of goal. Parton came sliding in only to knock it fractionally wide of the post.

A minute later, Stevenson headed on following a long throw-in. Egan tried to hit the ball on the turn but couldn't and Keogh gathered.

In the 81st minute, Craine played his free kick short to Stevenson on the left. Stevenson played the ball back to Craine then took off toward goal. Craine played the ball forward to Egan who touched it off to Stevenson. The midfielder and attacking midfielder made two tackles then laid the ball off to George Kalogeros on the right of the George Cross area but Kalogeros' shot was wide of the near post.

Paul Trimboli had replaced Edwards in the 70th minute and in the 87th minute he got in a tremendous turn before laying the ball off to Parton. The big stopper's shot was deflected but Laumets had no trouble gathering.

Parton and Laumets figured in the last action of the contest.



• Hellas star Charlie Egan controls the ball before making another assault on the George Cross goal.

Pictures: LES SHORROCK.

Markovski's cross from the right was headed on by Trimboli. Parton came in at the far post and just for a moment had headed firmly. Laumets reacted magnificently to tip the ball over and save Hellas from having to go into extra time.

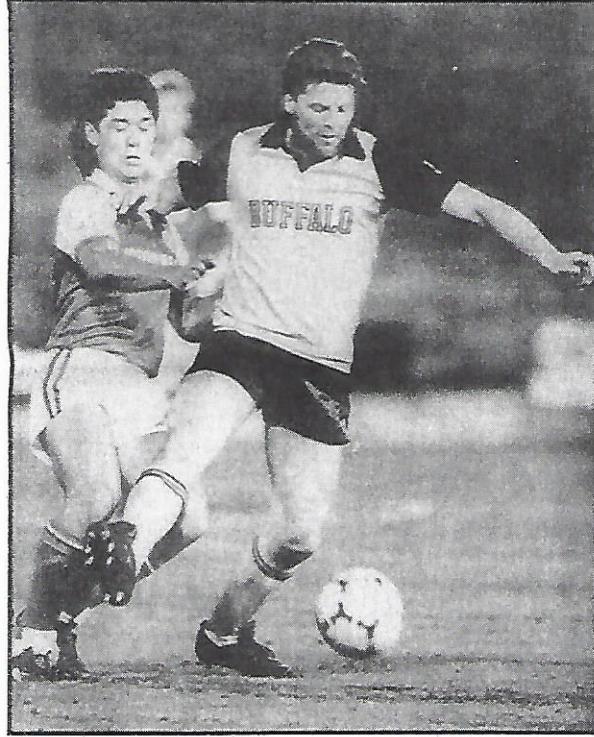
It was a tough, no-holds barred contest that always threatened to bubble over into outright violence but always held spectators' interest.

George Cross is a good side and on this showing there's not a lot between these outfitts. Certainly, as was the case last year, scoring against George Cross is going to be damn hard.

Mind you, few sides in Australia have the attacking prowess that Hellas has.

Both sides should do well in the West End NSL.

— CRAIG MACKENZIE



• Doug Brown (right) is closely marked by Alan Davidson. The former Hellas team mates found themselves on opposing sides in the Buffalo Cup semis last Saturday night.

LEWIS HEADS CROATIA INTO FINAL

MELBOURNE CROATIA 2 (Paul Lewis 7th, 55th) HEIDELBERG 1 (McKenna 34th) at Olympic Park last Saturday night. Buffalo Cup semi-final. Crowd: about 7,000 (double header). Cautions: Davidson (MC); Marley (H). Referee: John Fraser 4.

MELBOURNE CROATIA: Runje 7, Hannah 8, McLean 7, Dunn 7, Lemesina 7, Tsalikis 8, MacLean 8, Campbell 7 (inj. Redmond 67th), Lemesina (inj. Humble 67th), Lewis 7. **Coach:** Terry Terry.

HEIDELBERG: Oliver 8 — Langsbury 5, (Pappas 65th), Selemidis 8, Ketsakidis 6, Marley 6 — Brown 6, Kanesouli 6 (Valentino 65), Lemesina 6, Tsalikis 6 — Marley 5 (Anastasiadis 75th), McKenna 7. **Coach:** Roy MacLaren.

Alan Davidson left no doubts about his return to first class soccer with a display which certainly impressed the Croatia fans but also caught the eye of national coach Frank Arok, who immediately after the match named Davidson as one of a number of players still figuring prominently in Soccerco calculations.

Davidson was up against former Hellas team mate Doug Brown, who was playing wide on the right. Davidson not only won that duel but surprised Heidelberg when he bobbed up at the near post and won a header which led to the winning goal.

Andy Humble, Croatia's \$1,500 signing from Craydon, was on the bench and only came on in the last few minutes when teenager Tony Lemesina was injured. With Ian Wallace signed, sealed and about to be delivered Humble must resign himself

Man of the match:
ALAN DAVIDSON
 (M. Croatia)

to the fact that he'll probably have to battle hard with Paul Lewis for the other striker's role in what should commonly be a 4-4-2 formation.

And right now, Lewis has a firm grip on that other berth. He exposed an amazingly inept Heidelberg defence in the 7th minute.

Goodness knows how Lewis found so much space through the middle but find it he did and thanks to the quickness with which the ball was delivered to him there was no way that any Heidelberg defender could recover in time to pressure Lewis.

Davidson waited past Brown then passed to Jim Campbell who quickly played the ball forward to the unmarked in the 22nd minute and used his body well to hold off George Hannah's challenge only to be confronted by the advancing Mirko Runje who didn't seem to spread himself and snatched McKenna's attempt from 10 metres.

Runje threw his head toward the heavens in an obvious show of relief, after a Josip Hiskic volley in the 26th minute dipped viciously but flashed just wide of the far post and Heidelberg hit back with a goal in the 34th minute.

John Kanesouli played the ball to Peter Tsalikis whose

cross was blocked. The ball fell to Claude Lucchesi on the left of the Croatia area and he quickly played it into the goalmouth. McKenna hit it first time on the turn and although Runje lunged at full stretch and got a hand to the ball he couldn't stop it going in.

In the 74th minute, Brown broke clear from an offside position, accidentally it's becoming a bit of a running joke, so many linesmen not picking up players being offside. In fact, it has become a feature of the 1987 Buffalo Cup. Brown was about to race into the Croatia area when he was felled from behind. He took the resultant free kick himself but blasted the ball into Croatia's defensive wall.

Runje should have put the final nail in Heidelberg's coffin in the 77th minute. George Hannah, who is Croatia's captain this year and deservedly so for he's a truly outstanding competitor, cut the ball back from the right. Tsalikis struck it cleanly but didn't direct it well. The ball sailed wide of the far post.

Right on full time, Tsalikis cut in on a fine run from the left. But he held onto the ball too long. MacLean robbed him and it was a two v. one situation with MacLean and Lewis confronting the backpedalling Tsalikis. MacLean slipped the ball forward to Lewis who did well to control it under pressure from Tsalikis but Oliver came well out of goal to smother Lewis's shot.

Croatia deserved its win but the Buffalo Cup could prove invaluable to new Heidelberg coach Roy MacLaren who surely knows much more about his men than he did a few months ago.

The Press box was buzzing when one of the Greek scribes mentioned that Heidelberg recently decided not to buy any new players for the next two years.

Pretty amazing stuff. Unless, that is, the first teamer is on a two-year contract and I'm not so sure that that is the case.

Heidelberg's got enough up front to do well in the new West End National League but it lacks a bit of dig in midfield. MacLaren also has had a good look at English import Paul Langsbury and can now decide between Con Pappas and the Englishman for the right back spot. Alan Hunter hopefully isn't too far away from resuming his partnership in the heart of Heidelberg's defence with Tsalikis and there's little doubt that that combination is talented.

Croatia certainly is getting its act together. The club got carried away (put it mildly) by its success in last year's Buffalo Cup and Ansett Challenge Shield. All sorts of brash predictions spewed forth about Croatia taking the NSL by storm. That sort of impetuosity won't be allowed to flourish under Hennessey. Rather, there's a much more covert confidence about the team's prospects this year, a confidence that well could prove justified should Scotsman Ian Wallace and Willie Herd live up to expectations.

— CRAIG MACKENZIE

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It will be one hell of a game!

By TERRY HENNESSY
coach of Croatia

I hope that this is a great final. The game's bigger than Terry Hennessy, Brian Garvey, Melbourne Croatia and South Melbourne Hellas. What we're all looking for on Saturday night is a final that will endear people to a magnificent sport.

And I think this will be one hell of a game.

We've been magnificent defensively. Conceding just one goal in six games is a tremendous effort but everyone in the side has done well. We've been playing well as a team from the back right up to the front.

Of the new players, Alan Davidson has proved in a short time that he is an outstanding player of great quality and character. As is Robbie Dunn. Jim MacLean also is a great player. I have no doubts whatsoever about his talents and he's working very, very hard for me. He's one of the most genuine players I've ever worked with. Both Andy Humble and Tony Lemezina have done well in difficult circumstances. I believe that Paul Lewis needs a special sort of service and it's not something you can work on with newcomers like Andy and Tony in just a few weeks.

Incidentally, I'll go on record now as saying that Lewis is the best goalscorer in the National League. I think in terms of goalscoring he's exceptional.

This is the second time I've been in charge of Croatia for the Buffalo Cup and the second time we've reached the final. I was in charge back in 1984 when Hellas beat us 3-1 in the final so I'm really looking forward to Saturday night.

When you get to a final, of course you want to win it but it's not the end of the world if you lose. The fact that on paper Hellas has so many outstanding players represents a great challenge for us.

Guys like Egan, Crainie, McDowell, Postecoglou and Wade can turn a game in seconds. Our task will be to try and see that they don't function and if we do that we'll have gone a long way toward winning the game.

But remember that we've got plenty of very talented players too. We can match them in terms of quality.

I just hope that the Croatia fans turn up in their thousands and get right behind the lads. We're going through a transitional period right now and there's a tough season ahead of us but I believe that at the end of it all we'll have reason to be satisfied.

Sure, everyone wants to win but let's make sure that on Saturday night soccer is the big winner.



• Melbourne Croatia, back row: Zeljko Govic, Rob Markovic, Zeljko Gagula, Tony Lemezina, Tony Redmond, Davie McIntosh, Robbie Dunn, Mark Talaic. Front row: Victor Cristaldo, Jim Campbell, Jim MacLean, Andy Humble, Mirko Runje, George Hannah, Paul Lewis. Missing: Alan Davidson. Pictures: LES SHORROCK.

We'll have to go on the attack

By BRIAN GARVEY
coach of Hellas

We started out in the Buffalo Cup playing skilful, attractive and attacking soccer and that's the way we want to finish.

No disrespect to some of the teams in the competition for they obviously weren't quite prepared, but the games now, the semi's and Saturday's final, are much harder than the early rounds.

It's much tighter, more competitive and more physical but we must prove that we can still play attractive, attacking soccer against good teams. That's what our fans expect to see and that's what our players have been producing.

I've never been keen on mandatory marking in defence and I much prefer a zonal system which is probably what you'll see on Saturday night.

This will be my third Buffalo Cup Final which is kind of nice. I suppose I'm doing something right. And strangely enough, all of them will have been against Croatia. When I was at Heidelberg we beat Croatia 5-1 in the 1985 final and lost 2-1 last year.

I'm pleased that we're involved in all the Buffalo Cup finals. The competition is very competitive and it's a good way to prepare for the league season. If you get knocked out in the early rounds you have to wait a fair while before playing another important game which I don't like.

Our attack has been our strength in the early rounds. The combination of Charlie (Egan) and Danny (Wright) has been working well and the quality of balls supplied to them has been excellent. Both Charlie and Danny have plenty of mobility and skill.

Paul Wade is back from his honeymoon which is a bit of a difficult situation for me. As this is being written I don't know you about the level of Paul's fitness and to be honest it's very hard to change a winning team.

When I went to South Melbourne Hellas I didn't know much about young George Kalogeros but he's done extremely well so far. His attitude has been excellent and he's shown that he's prepared to work very hard. He's also shown good passing skills and he's scored a couple of goals.



• South Melbourne Hellas, back row: George Mihos, Danny Crainie, Charlie Egan, Paul Wade, Angie Postecoglou, Garry McDowell. Middle row: Richard Miranda, Brian Garvey, Chris Andriots, Stuart Stevenson, Peter Laumets, Con Giatsas, Steve Blair, Manny Anezakis, Steve Tasios, ground manager. Front row: Physio, George Kalogeros, Danny Wright, Bobby Russell, Ken Murphy, Carl Halford, George Vasiliadis. (gear steward).

LIKELY LINE-UPS

• Here are the probable line-ups for Saturday night's Buffalo Cup Final at Olympic Park at 8.15pm:

HELLAS

Peter LAUMETS

Bobby RUSSELL

Stuart STEVENSON

Steve BLAIR
Garry McDOWELL
Danny WRIGHT

Manny ANEZAKIS
Charlie EGAN

Angie POSTECOGLOU
George KALOGEROS

Mirko RUNJE
Davie MCINTOSH
Jim MACLEAN
Paul LEWIS

Alan DAVIDSON
Jim CAMPBELL

George HANNAH
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Fawkner 2 Northcote 0

At Smith Reserve on Sunday.
Scorers: Palinkas 68th, Cozzella 90th.

Neither Fawkner nor Northcote could come to grips with the gusty conditions at Smith Reserve for the first half of Sunday's game. The contest changed though with the appearance of Joe Palinkas who has been out of the game for a year.

The first 45 minutes were uneventful with neither team creating any clear-cut chances.

It wasn't until the 48th minute that a chance came when a mistake by Northcote fullback John Leonards allowed Peter Bordignon to break. He centred the ball to Ian Tuffield whose hard, low header was well saved by Mark Turudia who managed to punch it wide.

Then in the 50th minute Palinkas came on for Fab Maninelli. Until then, Jim Constantine had been one of the game's best performers.



Victorian State League with JOHN MANGAN

Palinkas, however, took him apart.

Fawkner started to create a string of opportunities.

At the 60th minute Ged Stenson received a ball on the edge of the box and hit a stinging left-foot drive which Turudia couldn't hold. Two minutes later Cesare Fattore put Bruno Cozzella through but in a one-on-one situation Turudia couldn't save cleanly.

Just before fulltime, Stenson gave the ball to Palinkas whose shot was again split by the goalie and this time Cozzella was on hand to give Fawkner its second goal.

— MIKE LYNN

Dinamo 4 Oakleigh 1

At Churchill Reserve on Saturday.
Scorers: Irvine 10th (Oak);

ENJOY IT WHILE YOU CAN, FOLKS

AMPOL

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN AMPOL CUP with ALLAN CRISP

Video tape it for posterity, savor it and generally make the most of it, because this will be the only official clash between Adelaide Juventus and Adelaide Hellas for the year 1987.

As we went to Press the SA giants were engaged in the Ampol Cup final after finishing their respective minor round campaigns unbeaten and disposing of their semi-final opponents.

With Hellas out of the West End NSW and SA competing in the same footballing national Cup series this year, the perennial league derby clashes that have highlighted many a season will be sadly missing.

No doubt, Juventus and Hellas will try to revive the Fairmont Homes Cup games at the end of the season, but these contests, despite the allure of healthy prizemoney, are unofficial.

It is fitting that Ampol, which has stuck loyally by SA soccer for 27 years, should be the company to benefit by staging this one-off derby final.

No one will deny Juventus and Hellas the right to be the night series finalists because both ended their preliminary commitments unbeaten.

But there can be no denying that Hellas was the more impressive semi-final performer.

Hellas accepted for Rothmans League champion Campbelltown City 3-1 and while Hellas did not have proceedings all its own way, it never looked as though it would lose.

Juventus, however, lost its place after a tearaway start and had to ward off a determined Para Hills bid for an equaliser.

Coach Zoran Matic was far

ADELAIDE Hellas 3 (Konstandopoulos 15th, Price 22nd, Atsalas 79th) CAMPBELLTOWN CITY 1 (Key 68th at Hindmarsh Stadium (Double-header). Crowd: 4200. Referee: Mike Browning 8.

HELLAS: A. Crook 7, Franzel 6, Hiern 7, Mousouli 8, Panagis 7, Manou 6, Hristodoulou 8, Honeyman 8, Atsalas 7, Price 7 (Keramidas 74th), Konstandopoulos 7 (Anastasiou 74th). Coach: Peter Jaks.

CAMPBELLTOWN: R. Parks 9, Beltrame 7, Ouwerkerk 6, Dooley 8, S. Parks 7, Parsons 6 (Gianinni 68th), Amos 7, Tufts 7, Gray 6, Key 7, McNally 6. Coach: David Jenkins.

ADELAIDE JUVENTUS 1 (J. Mullen 7th) PARA HILLS 0 at Hindmarsh Stadium (Double-header). Cautions: Cole, Klein (Para). Referee: Tony Martell 8.

ADELAIDE JUVENTUS: McNally 9, Shillabeer 7, Flounders 10, Nyskophus 8, Tobin 6, Santrac 7, Melita 8, Vidmar 7, Villani 6, J. Mullen 7, Wilde 6. (T. Mullen 63rd).

PARA HILLS: M. Crook 9, Harvey 7, Cole 7, Horry 7 (Leemburgers 50th), Humphreys 6, Tomlinson 7, Edwards 6 (T. Blue 63rd), Radford 8, Klein 8, Moss 8, B. Crook 7. Coach: Barry Simpson.

from happy with his team's patchy display, particularly since he is preparing to take Juventus to WA to play in a four-team tournament next week.

Juventus will compete with Perth Azzurri, Tricolore and either Stirling Macedonia or Spearwood Dalmatianac on Friday, March 20 and Sunday, March 22.

The heartening feature for Matic and the Juventus fans was the masterful semi-final display of stopper Neville Flounders and the great goalkeeping of Willie McNally.

Not only did Flounders keep things tight at the back, but he also found time for several mazy runs which caused havoc for Para.

Equal top billing with big Flounders was former Soccercoo goalkeeper Marty Crook, who made five magnificent saves in keeping Juventus down to its meagre winning margin.

And it was heart-in-mouth time in the Juventus camp in

the 74th minute when Para and SA striker Darren Moss had driven a drive which McNally pushed onto the far post and to eventual safety.

Hellas was confronted by a vastly improved Campbelltown City in the first semi-final, but mainly accepted the challenge to take a deserved 2-0 lead after 22 minutes.

The Red Devils did not fold, however, and a delightfully executed goal by Chris Key gave them hope of forcing extra time.

Steve Atsalas put paid to those heady aspirations with a last minute goal — his third of the season — to give Hellas its 3-1 scoreline.

And it was a scoreline which some regarded as one of justice and indicative of Hellas' overall dominance.

However, some would argue that the final margin did not amply reward Campbelltown's studious tactics which against most other teams would have succeeded.

With the wind behind it the

game Danny Zemunik was on hand to score the decisive goal, turning in a ball from Steve Douglas.

With the wind behind it the game Danny Zemunik was on hand to score the decisive goal, turning in a ball from Steve Douglas.

It came in the 81st minute when again, Callaghan sent a through-ball forward, this time for Anthony Cassar. Cassar slammed it first time from the edge of the box to net a spectacular goal.

The game though was scrappy. No team could take control but Croydon came closest with consistent bursts of attacking early in the second half and in the dying moments of the game.

Jimmy Nelson had a superb

Runje 16th, 78th, Morovic 50th, 63rd (StAD).

St. Albans Dinamo, which went through five Buffalo Cup games without scoring, took 16 minutes to find the net against Oakleigh on Saturday and once it got started there was no stopping it.

Tony Vrzina's team, weakened by injuries and the retirement last week of Zdenko Brklicic, found itself one down after only 10 minutes when the two Steves, Irvine and Kakantonis, combined to score for Oakleigh. Irvine pushed the ball through from midfield and Kakantonis raced down the right wing. Irvine was in the goalmouth to meet Kakantonis' cross and turn the ball past Mate Grbic.

Dinamo took the game by the scruff of the neck and equalised six minutes later when Goran Runje hit a shot on the turn.

Dinamo continued to pressure and was unlucky not to be awarded a penalty just before half-time when Oakleigh's Emil Patjina blatantly palmed away a shot by Runje.

However, Dinamo could not be denied. In the 50th minute Dennis Morovic made a lot of room for himself and blasted a shot past Oakleigh keeper John Vlahos.

Thirty minutes later Dinamo's Ivan Duzel found Morovic who hit a spectacular volley to open up a two-goal lead for his team.

Oakleigh's fate was sealed in the 78th minute when Mick Collina sent in a cross from the left which Morovic touched on to Runje who scored his second goal.

**F'ston Pines 0
Springvale 0**

At Monterey Reserve on Sunday.

Springvale paraded four new signings on Sunday against Pines in a game dominated by a fierce wind — Dennis Boland, bought from Pines for \$3,000; Dragan Vasic, signed from Royal Richmond for \$1,800; Kevin Swincoe, signed from Sandringham for \$900 and Jim Williams who joined from Altona Gate on a free transfer.

Falcons dominated the first half as a tentative AIS team looked distinctly uncomfortable in its new environment. Dave O'Connor's team was successfully closing down the youngsters and not giving them the room they needed to get going.

Falcon's new signing Stan Webster was unlucky not to put his team 1-0 up when he ran on to a through-ball from John O'Callaghan, but the ex-Frankston Pines striker had his shot pushed wide by goalkeeper Peter Gunn.

AIS coach, Ron Smith, must have given his team some good advice during the interval because the youngsters hit Falcons with everything when the second half began.

Showing plenty of skill and determination the Institute lads came forward and put Falcons under pressure. Their tenacity was rewarded when a poor goal-kick from O'Callaghan was headed straight back into the penalty area and AIS midfielder Doug Marcina was able to elude his marker to put his team in front.

However, Falcons, led by fullback Harry Bingham, clawed their way back into the game and started pressing for the equaliser.

It came in the 81st minute when again, Callaghan sent a through-ball forward, this time for Anthony Cassar. Cassar slammed it first time from the edge of the box to net a spectacular goal.

The game though was scrappy. No team could take control but Croydon came closest with consistent bursts of attacking early in the second half and in the dying moments of the game.

Jimmy Nelson had a superb

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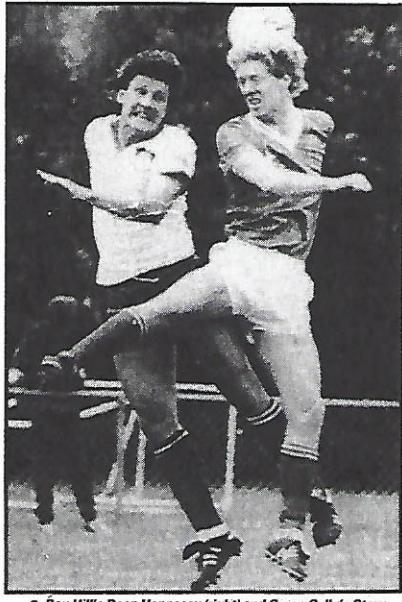
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Box Hill's Dean Hennessy (right) and Green Gully's Steve McLennan tangle in a heading duel at Wembley Park last Sunday. Gully won the game 1-0. Pictures: LES SHORROCK.

Warszawski 25th, Storm penalty 30th.

Western Suburbs' coach Jim Kondilis was bitterly disappointed with the result of this opening round clash.

"We gave them three goals," he said after the game. "The score didn't reflect how close the game was."

The strong wind which plagued all of Melbourne's Sunday matches caught Suburbs' goalie Spiro Kardamitis totally off-guard when he misjudged a long floating backpass from fullback Dennis Macleod in the 5th minute. The ball bounced over the helpless keeper and found the net.

In the 25th minute, a cross into the penalty area forced Kardamitis to punch. The ball fell to Greg Warszawski, who hammered it into the net on the volley.

And again five minutes later Polonia's pressure paid off when a cross into the box from Brendan Lakic was handled by 17-year-old central defender Bill Kyriazis who was surrounded by Polonia attackers. Kees Storn had no trouble putting away the penalty to give Miron Bleiberg's team an unexpected three-goal lead.

In spite of the introduction of new signing Minh Tri Vo at half-time and the advantage of the wind, Suburbs were unable to set up any dangerous chances.

**Broadmeadows 1
Croydon 0**

At Laura Douglas Reserve on Sunday.

Broadmeadows celebrated their return to State League with a win against last year's champion Croydon.

It was a very satisfying result for a club which has vivid memories of being promoted to State League in 1983 and then being relegated the following season.

The game though was scrappy. No team could take control but Croydon came closest with consistent bursts of attacking early in the second half and in the dying moments of the game.

Abraham had over from the 35th minute and in the 39th minute Harry Michell's first time shot was palmed out by Raponi to Sahinidis who headed over from six metres.

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STATE LEAGUE DETAILS

CAULFIELD 0 THOMASTOWN 1 (Temos 18th) at Prince Park, Saturday.

CAULFIELD: Medier 7 — Filiou 7, Harris 9, Brooks (in), Abraam 5th, Koutos 7, Michael 7 — Taylor 7 (Taitridis 65th), Theophrastus 7 — Bousios 7, Sahinidis 6, Theodosopoulos 7. Coach: Takis Vikings.

THOMASTOWN: Raponi 8 — Cosentino 7, G. McMillan 6, Arden 5, N. McMillan 6, M. McMillan 6, Kerec, Cartora 5, Temos 5 — Atherey 5, McGuinness 5, O'Brien 5, Mikell 5. Best three: 3. Harris (C), 2. Abraam (C), 1. Raponi (T).

FRANKSTON PINES 0 SPRINGVALE CITY 0 at Monterey Reserve, Sunday.

FRANKSTON PINES: Jansen 8 — Bozic 6, Cummings 7, Park 6 — Thurlow 8, Watson 6, Hodges 7 (Richardson 8th), Ferris 6 — 2. P. Hennings 5, Armstrong 5. Coach: Danny McNamee.

SPRINGVALE CITY: Boland 8 — Vogel 7, Bissinger 7, Adams 7, G. Hennings 7 — G. Bannon 7, Swinscoe 5 (Wilk 80th), Bell 8 — Basic 5, House 7, Williams 5. Coach: Bobby McLachlan.

Best three: 3. Jansen (PP), 2. Bell (S), 1. Boland (S).

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF SPORT 1 (Marino 60th) MORWELL FALCONS 1 (A. Cassar 6, Best 81st) at North Cringin Reserve last Sunday.

AIS: Gunning 7 — Healy 6, Cummings 7, Mills 7, C. Foster 6 — Marcina 7, Koch 7, Polak 7, Edwards 8 — P. Foster 7, Welsh 7. Coach: Ron Smith.

MORWELL FALCONS: Prezioso 6 — Bingham 9, Tutil 7, Clark 7, D. Wilson 7 — van Baar 6, O'Callaghan 6, E. Cassar 6, A. Cassar 7 (Sostak 85th) — Webster 5, Bezina 5. Coach: David O'Connor.

Best three: 3. Bingham (MF), 2. Edwards (AIS), 1. D. Wilson (MF).

WESTERN SUBURBS 0 POLONIA 3 (MacLeod o.g. 5th, Warszawski 25th, Storm 26th) at Ralph Reserve last Sunday.

WESTERN SUBURBS: Kardamitis 5 — D. MacLeod 6, Hamill 6, Smallman 5, Kyriazis 5 — Esposito 4, (Koutsounis 60th), Farmer 4, Koutsounis 5 (in), Minh 6, McCluskey 5 — Tuck 5, Dunn 5 — Crotty 5, Jimi Kondilis 5.

POLONIA: Kiss 7 — Liparski 7, (Gregorczuk 7), Bennett 7, Kozaczynski 8, Smolarek 7 — P. Czaplak 7, Flawell 7, Nelson 8 — Lakić 6, Storm 7, Warszawski 7 (H.T. Marshall 5). Coach: Mirko Bleiberg.

Best three: 3. Kozaczynski (P), 2. Nelson (P), 1. Smolarek (P).

ST ALBANS DINAMO 4 (Runje 16th, 78th, Morovic 50th, 63rd) OAKLEIGH 1 (Irvine 10th) at Oakleigh Park last Sunday.

ST ALBANS DINAMO: Grigic 5 — Duzel 7, Bajic 6, Culina 5, Ristic 5, Ramjak 5, Colina 6 — Duzel 7, Bajic 6, Culina 5, Ristic 5 — Morovic 6, Runje 7. Coach: Tony Vrana.

OAKLEIGH: Vafidis 4 — Kakantakis 4, Palihina 4, Tasiopoulos 4, Stogianou 4 — Gourias 5, Ross 5, J. Gusic 4, Politis 4 — Gourias 5 (S. Gusic 60th), Irvine 4, (Laleta 65th). Coach: Chris Kalafatis.

Best three: 3. G. Runje (St Al), 2. Duzel (St Al), 1. Morovic (St Al).

BROADMEADOWS 1 (Liberto 76th) CROYDON CITY 0 at Laura Douglas Reserve last Sunday.

BROADMEADOWS: Pece 7 — Smart 6, Vizzini 8, Higham 6, Edmondson 6 — T. Ciantar 6, Blair 6, Karatas 6 (J. Ciantar 57th) — P. Kadlecik 7, Liberto 7. Coach: Kaz Kulak.

CROYDON CITY: Waterman 7 — Brown 7, Brack 7, O'Reilly 6 (sent off 83rd), Edmondson 6 — Beech 6, Livingstone 7, Nelson 8, Cooper 6 (Harbinson 75th) — French 7, Brogan 6. Coach: Jim Tansey.

Best three: 3. Nelson (C), 2. Vizzini (B), 1. Livingstone (C).

FAWKNER 2 (Palinkas 68th, Cozzella 90th) NORTHCOTE 0 at Smith Reserve last Sunday.

FAWKNER: Wilson 6 — Walsh 6, Ferla 8, Schipano 6, Fattore 6, Bordignon 7 — Mancinelli 5 (Palinkas 6, 50th), Stenson 7 — Tuffield 6, Cozzella 6, Verechia 6. Coach: Frank McLean.

NORTHCOTE: Tordella 5 — Leandro 7, Smali 6, Patriotic 6, J. Constantini 6 — Baklanis 6, Drakellis 6, Gymnopoulos 6 (Belegrius 70th) — Diamataris 5, Patsakos 6, P. Constantini 6. Coach: Juan Toro.

Best three: 3. Ferla (F), 2. Bordignon (F), 1. Stenson (F).

BOX HILL 0 GREEN GULLY 1 (Zemunik 2nd) at Wembley Park last Sunday.

BOX HILL: McKinlay 7 — Davidson 5, Hird 6, A. McMillan 6, D. Hennessey 5 — Roodehouse 5, Burton 6, Brimmer 6, White 5 (Mon 67th) — Griffin 5, Azzopardi 5. Coach: George Murray.

GREEN GULLY: Denys 6 — Hobgen 6, Grimaud 6, Cannell 7, Douglas 6 — Fraser 5, McLellan 7, Carter 6, Cunningham 7 — Ward 5 (Quigley 70th), Zemunik 4. Coach: Gus Macneill.

Best three: 3. McLellan (GG), 2. Cannell (GG), 1. McKinlay (BH).

rience will fortify an already useful side.

Chris Kaliaditis will have to lift Oakleigh after last week's 4-1 defeat by St. Albans Dinamo but can gain some encouragement from the fact that his team did have Dinamo on the run for spells during the game, particularly early on when Steve Irvine netted the first goal.

Juan Toro also has the task this week of lifting his team after defeat when Northcote tackled Frankston Pines at John Cain Reserve on Saturday. Northcote has a lot of potential but an organized Pines defence should close down Toro's team as it did Springfield last Sunday.

It should be a close tussle and a draw is the most likely outcome.

Northcote is still awaiting the arrival of its Argentinian signing Victor Espagnon who is now expected to arrive in Australia in the next few days, while Pines have finally sold Ally Dicks to Makedonia.

Polonia had a convincing victory over Western Suburbs last weekend but it will find Box Hill a much tougher proposition at Raleigh Reserve on Sunday.

Box Hill failed to shine against Green Gully last Sunday but George Murray's team is obviously capable of better things, as it showed when it demolished JUST in the Buffalo Cup.

This is going to be a very close game but if Box Hill can find its rhythm after last week's disappointing result it should be able to take this match.

Here are this weekend's games with the likely winners in capitals:

SATURDAY
MORWELL FALCONS v Western Suburbs 3pm.
Northcote v Frankston Pines at John Cain Reserve, 3pm.

Oakleigh v FAWKNER at Caloola Reserve, 3pm.

SUNDAY

CROYDON v St. Albans Dinamo at Town Park, 3pm.

GREEN GULLY v Broadmeadows at Green Gully Reserve, 3pm.

Polonia v BOX HILL at Raleigh Reserve, 3pm.

SPRINGVALE v Caulfield at Ross Reserve, 3pm.

Thomastown v INSTITUTE OF SPORT at Partridge Reserve, 3pm.

VALES WANT TO SIGN CULLEN AND LOUGHNANE

been getting goals in the Buffalo Cup. You don't come up against defenders like Robbie Dunn and Alan Davidson in the State League so we knew that once we got back into this competition the goals would come."

Croydon will enter the game against Dinamo without captain Jim O'Reilly who has been suspended following his sending off last weekend. Looking into my crystal ball I suspect that Tansey himself will play to fill the gap in the Croydon rearguard.

Croydon's Matt McDonald is still negotiating a new contract and could go on the transfer list in the next few days. It is understood that the Saints have already received offers from a couple of other clubs.

Tansey should be able to get his team back into top gear and if it can exploit the weaknesses in Dinamo's defence it should come out victorious in a close, hard-fought struggle.

The Australian Institute of Sport team has to wait until the following weekend to play its first home game when it is host to Springvale. This week however, Ron Smith's team is

again making the long trip south, this time to Thomastown's Partridge Reserve.

While Thomastown will be strengthened by the return of Brian Coyle and Andy Higgins from suspension, this Sunday it will be the turn of Alan Kerr and Nino DiMartino to sit out a game due to suspensions carrying over from last year.

Mike Lynn also plans to rest Ron Smith.

The Institute will be at the Partridge Reserve.

After a slow start, the AIS team took the game right up to Falcons, but O'Connor's team showed how important this game was to it by coming back and levelling the scores.

If the Institute can get into the Thomastown game from the start it has an excellent chance of claiming its first State League scalp against a side which only just scraped in against Caulfield last weekend.

After the elation of last Sunday's victory over current champion Croydon, Broadmeadows have a sobering task in store this weekend when they travel to Green Gully.

Both teams come into this game with narrow victories under their belts. Gully's performance against George Murray's Box Hill team was enough to give it the points in difficult conditions, but neither side looked impressive.

Gus MacLeod, Gully's coach, maintains that his team is short of a striker and until it gets one the team will not live up to its potential. But as it may, Gully should have enough firepower to unsettle Broadmeadows.

Kaz Kulak's Broadmeadows looks good in defence and was a match for Croydon but if Gully can get in game together it should be able to assert its authority and get another win under its belt.

Saturday sees Jim Kondilis' Western Suburbs team making the long journey to Morwell. Suburbs suffered a disappointing defeat when they met Polonia last weekend and it showed that they're

not the team they were last season.

The performance of newcomer Minh Tri Vo was encouraging through Kondilis' side, the former Vietnamese international's transfer from Footscray JUST last Friday and brought him on a half-time in the game against Polonia.

"Even though it was hard to show good skills, in that game Minh demonstrated that he will be a valuable addition to the team. Getting to training is difficult for Minh but we are keen to help him as much as we can," says Kondilis.

Morwell Falcons played out a draw with the State League's unknown factor, the Institute of Sport team, last Sunday, but coach Dave O'Connor saw enough to satisfy him that his Falcons team will be very competitive this year.

"We had a good first half against the Institute," said O'Connor, "and then when they came back and put us a goal down, the lads showed great spirit to get back into the game and get a draw out of it. On the strength of that performance I think we'll have a good year."

Falcons go into this game favourites and should be too strong for Kondilis' team, but Suburbs will prove that they're no pushovers and will be a lot tighter at the back this weekend.

Polonia came on as substitute in last Sunday's game and revved up the team to take the points from Northcote, scoring a goal in the process. His ex-

Springvale coach Bobby McLachlan is trying to sign Pines' midfielder John Cullen, who is carrying a \$4,000 price-tag. He is also keen to secure striker Ian Loughnane from Footscray JUST last Friday and brought him on a half-time in the game against Polonia.

McLachlan's team was unlucky not to beat Frankston Pines last week and will be looking for its luck to turn on Sunday when it takes on Caulfield at Ross Reserve.

However, Caulfield coach Takis Vikings can equally consider himself hard done by his team's game last weekend. Caulfield played Thomastown and in spite of a multitude of scoring opportunities Thomastown scored the only goal of the game to come away with a points difference.

Caulfield showed that it will be a strong team this year, but McLachlan's side has the home advantage and should win this one.

Fawkner, strengthened by the surprise return of Joe Palinkas, should be too strong for State League newcomer Oakleigh at Caloola Reserve on Saturday.

Palinkas came on as substitute in last Sunday's game and revved up the team to take the points from Northcote, scoring a goal in the process. His ex-

Rovers want Fryszer, McIvor

Doncaster Rovers are trying to sign Mike Fryszer and Mike McIvor but failed in a bid to sign Des Smith.

Formerly Fryszer, a former Hakoah and Polonia player while midfielder McIvor has played with Footscray JUST, Doveton and Springvale City.

Shannon, the ex-Croydon and Wilmington minnow, signed and trained with Rovers but decided to stay with Victorian League Second Division.

Rovers' coach Norm Maitland, the former George Cross great, has retired as a player.

"I'm too bloody old to tell you the truth. I've had trouble with my knee and I won't even be

playing in the reserves this year," said Maitland.

Maitland lost four players from last year's team and signed and trained Rob Forsyth, leading scorer in First Division last year, with 24 goals, has had a bad back injury that could sideline him for the first half of the season.

Gary Clayton, the former Juventus and George Melbournes Hakoah goalkeeper, has joined State League side Broadmeadows.

Polonia's Kaz Kulak, who plays district cricket with Ringwood United.

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Schumacher lifts the lid on drug abuse



• West German goalkeeper Toni Schumacher was "on a high" during the World Cup Finals in Mexico.

Tony Schumacher's allegations that many top West German players take performance-enhancing drugs may end the brilliant goalkeeper's career with the national team and is clouding his future with his home club.

The flamboyant 32-year-old goalie rocked West Germany's soccer establishment with the allegations in his book, which was recently previewed in *'Der Spiegel'* and goes on sale later this month.

Schumacher has been no stranger to controversy during a career that has included 76 international games and more than 400 matches with FC Cologne in the Bundesliga.

He became a superstar with big saves on big occasions, including the World Cup in Mexico last year. He also gained worldwide notoriety with a foul that nearly crippled French player Patrick Battiston in a 1982 World Cup game in Spain.

His book, *"Anpfiff"* (Starting Whistle), alleges that many West German First Division players have been using stimulants for years.

It also discusses some stars' sex lives and drinking habits. Schumacher wrote that Paul Breitner used to "smoke like a chimney and drink like a truck." Breitner, now retired, is threatening to sue.

When the book's contents became known, Schumacher lost his job as captain of the National Team and was dropped from the game against Israel to be played on March 25. His return to the national squad looks increasingly doubtful.

FC Cologne suspended Schumacher from the next league game and the team's business manager, Michael Meier, has indicated the

goalkeeper's contract could be terminated before it expires in 1989.

Schumacher is one of the highest-paid West German stars. *'Stern'* magazine reported his estimated annual income is \$1,620,000 — half from endorsement fees, half from the playing contract.

The mass-circulation *"Bild"* newspaper predicted Schumacher would be dropped from Cologne and might be forced to continue his career abroad.

National team manager Franz Beckenbauer was quoted as saying Schumacher was finished as team captain.

"I have now read the whole book and it's even more stupid than I had thought before," Beckenbauer told *"Die Welt"* newspaper.

"Schumacher has started a verbal assault on everything having to do with soccer."

"We cannot and should not accept this without responding. He's no longer suited to be national team captain."

West German officials have reacted sharply to Schumacher's allegations. The German Soccer Federation scheduled a meeting for last weekend to discuss the claims made in the book and his fate.

Leading team physicians and officials have proposed mandatory drug testing. But they hope the tests will prove Schumacher's allegations false.

FC Cologne said it would subject its players to a drug test in an attempt to clear the club's reputation.

In an interview with the *"Die Welt"* newspaper published recently, Schumacher said he was happy that FC Cologne was conducting the drug tests.

"It's a beginning. Without my book, the con-

troversy would not have come so fast," Schumacher said.

"The primary aim of my book was to make clear that Bundesliga players have been taking stimulants. That's the truth and it must be made public," he said.

"We must talk about this, before we live to see the day when a player collapses on the field," he told *"Die Welt."*

Schumacher's hopes that other players would support his statements have not materialised. National team colleague Klaus Augenthaler of Bayern Munich said said he could never agree again on the same side with Schumacher.

The previous low point in Schumacher's career came when he charged into Patrick Battiston during the 1982 World Cup semi-final in Seville, sidelining the French defender for several months in one of the most brutal fouls seen at international level in years.

The two later held a much-publicised reconciliation but bad feelings lingered.

Schumacher overcame condemnation at home and abroad for the foul on Battiston and maintained his place on the team with exceptional saves.

Four years later in Mexico, the outspoken goalkeeper seriously injured teammate Matthias Herget in training.

But the final of Seville" became the "Hero of Mexico" as he led West Germany to its second consecutive final with brilliant goalkeeping, including two penalty saves against the host side.

In the final against Argentina, however, Schumacher misjudged a high cross and missed the ball, allowing the South Americans to open the score. Argentina went on to a 3-2 victory.

Beckenbauer: I really must learn to keep my mouth shut

Franz Beckenbauer the team chief who led West Germany to runners-up spot in the World Cup, is now preparing for the European Championship finals to be staged in eight West German cities between June 10 and 25 next year.

Beckenbauer has extended his contract with the DFB until 1990, but at the moment he has no idea what he will do then.

At 41 he has already achieved a lot as a player, few footballers in the world have been more successful, certainly no one in Germany.

As an old-time great on the field of play, can he become an all-time hero as a manager?

Kaiser Franz, looking back at Mexico, says: "I could have been the big loser in the world championship, if we had been eliminated earlier. The media would have crucified me."

Beckenbauer, whom DFB president Hermann Neuberger describes as a "lucky stroke for German football", a loser?

Well, the fact is that he thought about the possibility in hindsight, either on his golf course in Kitzbuhel (Austria) where he lives, or while managing the World XI in Pasadena last summer's Unicef game.

He admits to having made mistakes, beginning with the much-publicised statement in Mexico's training camp at Morelia when he said: "We can't win the World Cup."

The surprised journalists made a lot of that spontaneous remark. Some attacked him for undermining the squad's confidence.

One accused him of "abdication of his fame", after Beckenbauer had allowed himself to become involved in a slanging match with the Mexican journalist Miguel Hirsch on television and was not exactly choosy with words.

Other papers, too, were even less complimentary in the assessment of Kaiser Franz's performance on the small screen.

But he remains unrepentant — "I tried to protect my team just

as any other manager would have done. I tried to prevent any damage to their morale and this surely was my duty."

But the success in Mexico probably saved his managerial career, for the time being, and his image received a new boost.

That he is highly popular once more is reflected in the colossal

Schumacher and Rummenigge was newsworthy.

"When I think how in 1974, at home, the row broke out over bonuses, how Paul Breitner was all ready to pack his bags and go home — my God, there was something going on every day."

"It could have provided the guitar press with material for

pared to the worst record.

In 1982-83, 21 players were shown the red card, in 1985-86 there were 31. A number of players suffered bad injuries which forced some to give up their careers, while the culprits got off scot-free, mainly because the referees failed to spot and didn't punish the brutal fouls.

General opinion is that a number of referees pushing 50 are no longer physically able to follow the pace of a modern match.

Some team managers, among them Erich Ribbeck of Bayer Leverkusen who claims that he advocated the use of two referents — I don't know, we'll have to see about the rest." The new team has to mature so he has arranged a series of friendlies to compensate for the lack of competitive qualifying fixtures.

20 years ago, would like to see each half of the field controlled by one referee — I am convinced that this will come much sooner than many people think."

Beckenbauer agrees: "The referees have always been exposed to criticism and will always remain so. Because the game is constantly getting faster, the condition and stamina of the referees suffer."

"We should certainly experiment with two officials, perhaps during tournaments or friendly games. One referee can be responsible for each half of the pitch. The problems would not be solved, but certainly diminished."

But the proposal that players guilty of committing bad fouls should be suspended for as long as the victim is out of action, has not met with approval.

Willie Lemke, the business manager of Werder Bremen, asks: "What would happen if a player is put out of action for good. Should the opponent who caused the injury also be thrown out of the game?"

The suggestion that a free kick should replace the throw-in is certainly interesting. Beckenbauer thinks that throw-ins are "boring"; a free kick from the touchline "would speed the game up".

'As a player I was just one of many, but as a team boss I am obviously the representative of West German football.'

postbag and the steady demands for autographs, not forgetting the queue of sponsors offering lucrative contracts.

"I underestimated the power of the spoken word," he says. "As a player I was just one of many, but as a team boss I am obviously the representative of Western German football."

Another admitted mistake was his outburst at the Italian referee Luigi Agnolin, after the 4-1 defeat by Austria last October.

He says: "I lost my cool. I was determined after Mexico to become quiet and more rational. I really must learn to keep my mouth shut."

But perhaps his biggest blunders were not tactical deployment, or the choice of players — "I would even today still have left Grundel, Buchwald, Funkel and Mill at home ('my worst moment') and still asked Matthaus to Mark Maradona in the final — my biggest error was to permit the journalists to live in the small hotel as the squad's

for the European Championships we shall be separated and train once again in a sports school. We will no longer be observed, spied upon, checked out, scrutinised, etc."

"The worst were the scandal magazines who were not interested in considering what damage they are doing to our football."

"They even reported 'exclusive' stories when there weren't any. Only the quarrel between

months, but not in 1986."

Beckenbauer has high hopes for the immediate future:

"Matthaus is becoming the personality in midfield that I need; Rahn, Thor and Frontzeck — that is the coming generation for a hopeful future."

But he rejects any speculation about the European Champion ship team composition. "Well, if the tournament was to start today, we would put Berthold at right full-back, then Horster, Au-

The program starts on March 25 with the first senior match against Israel in Tel Aviv.

Then follow games against Italy in Cologne on April 18; France in Berlin on August 12; England in Dusseldorf on September 3; Denmark in Hamburg on September 23; Sweden at a venue yet to be fixed on October 14; Hungary in Budapest on November 18 and Switzerland in Kaiserslautern on March 23, 1988.

In addition, a four-nation tournament is planned for Berlin in April 1988, but it appears that UEFA is not too keen on such showpieces which could devalue their own competition.

Beckenbauer was also in the headlines having come out in favour of replacing a throw-in with a free kick and experimenting with two referees.

Never before in the Bundesliga have referees endured so much criticism and abuse as in the first half of this season. Last term the number of sendings-off shot up by 50 per cent as com-

pared to the 1986-87 season.

For the 1987-88 season, Beckenbauer has proposed a new system where two referees would be used for each half of the pitch. The problems would not be solved, but certainly diminished."

But the proposal that players



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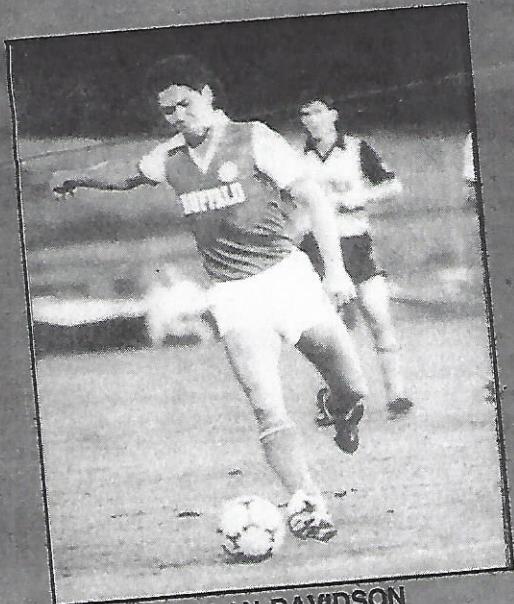
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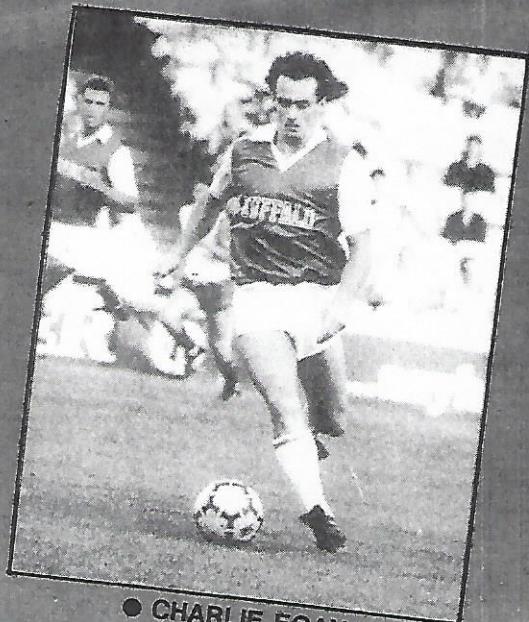
**SATURDAY MARCH 14 OLYMPIC PARK NO. 1
KICK OFF 8.15**

MELBOURNE CROATIA



• ALAN DAVIDSON

VS



• CHARLIE EGAN

SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS